

How so many kids lost TennCare

From 2016 to 2018, TennCare required more than 319,000 Tennessee children to verify their eligibility with paper forms and postal mail. The system rarely worked: Most forms were never returned and more than 220,000 kids faced a loss of health insurance.

PAPERWORK PROBLEMS

202,091

No response to renewal paperwork

19,593

Denied because paperwork was incomplete or late

ELIGIBILITY DECIDED*

16,629

Denied because they aren't eligible

14,905

Approved for TennCare or CoverKids

OUTCOME UNKNOWN

65,938

Submitted renewal paperwork, outcome not documented

Source: TennCare/CoverKids children renewal notice database

*Some additional applicants had their eligibility decided through appeals or other systems, but TennCare cannot say how many.

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